

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 9, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that ASTRID K. TEPATTI and EBONY P. WOODS pled guilty today in federal district court in San Diego before United States District Judge John A. Houston to charges arising out of the attempted murder of TEPATTI's husband, Stephen Tepatti, at his Camp Pendleton residence. ASTRID TEPATTI pled guilty to attempted murder and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence. WOODS pled guilty to attempted murder.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Shanna L. Dougherty, who is prosecuting the case, TEPATTI admitted in her plea agreement that she obtained a Ruger Blackhawk .30 caliber revolver to use in her attempt to kill the victim, Stephen James Tepatti. ASTRID TEPATTI also admitted that on January 4, 2004, with premeditation and deliberation, she entered the victim's home on the U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, with the loaded revolver, intending to kill the victim.

Pursuant to a separate plea agreement, WOODS admitted that she aided and abetted TEPATTI in the attempted murder of the Stephen Tepatti. Specifically, WOODS admitted that she drove TEPATTI to the

victim's home knowing that TEPATTI was going there to kill the victim. She also took the child of the victim and ASTRID TEPATTI away from the home so that the child would not witness the murder. WOODS further admitted that the attempted murder was committed with premeditation and deliberation, and that she had been offered a financial benefit from the proceeds of the victim's life insurance in exchange for her participation.

Sentencing for TEPATTI is scheduled for October 29, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.; sentencing for WOODS is scheduled for November 5, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., both before Judge Houston.

DEFENDANTS

1. ASTRID K. TEPATTI
2. EBONY P. WOODS

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

TEPATTI

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1113 (Attempted Murder)
Maximum Penalty: Twenty years incarceration and \$250,000 fine

Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i) (Use of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence)
Maximum Penalty: Five years consecutively; \$250,000 fine

WOODS

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1113 (Attempted Murder)
Maximum Penalty: Twenty years incarceration and \$250,000 fine.

AGENCIES

Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Federal Bureau of Investigation
California Highway Patrol
Oceanside Police Department
Yuma Police Department